

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
Appln. No. 09/807,387  
Docket No. Q64043

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A method of continuously coating a metal strip with a polymer composition, said metal strip having an "external" face to be coated and an opposite "internal" face, said method including the steps of:

- feeding said metal strip in non-heated state ,
- unwinding continuously said metal strip on a support roller, the internal face being into contact with said support roller,
- passing said metal strip continuously between application means and said support roller, said application means applying said polymer composition to the external face of the metal strip , said support roller facing said application means, and
- heating a non-deformable metal surface of said support roller, whereby said metal strip is heated before, during and after application ~~only~~ through contact of the internal face with said heated support roller,

said metal strip being heated before application of said polymer composition to said external face only through contact of the internal face with said heated support roller.

2. and 3. (Canceled)

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4. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein said polymer composition is applied by rolling said composition between an applicator roller with a deformable surface and said strip bearing on said support roller.

5. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein said polymer composition is applied in the solid state in the form of a film.

6. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein said polymer composition is applied in the molten state.

7. (previously presented): A method according to claim 6, wherein said polymer composition is applied in the molten state by direct extrusion onto said strip bearing on said support roller.

8. (previously presented): A method according to claim 6, wherein the application of said polymer composition in the molten state includes the steps of:

- applying a layer of said composition to an applicator roller which has a deformable surface, and

- transferring said layer from said applicator roller to said strip bearing on said support roller.

9. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein said polymer composition is a thermosetting composition and wherein, after application, the polymer composition of the coating of the strip is cured.

10. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein said polymer composition is a thermoplastics composition and in that said coated strip is cooled after application and after the strip has escaped from contact with said support roller.

11. (previously presented): A method according to claim 10, wherein cooling by quenching is carried out to obtain a polymer coating layer having an amorphous or partly crystalline structure.

12. (currently amended): A method according to claim ~~104~~, wherein the surface of said applicator roller is cooled directly.

13. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein it further includes a step in which a polymer composition is applied to the internal face of the strip.

14. (previously presented): A method according to claim 13, wherein, for the step in which a polymer composition is applied to the internal face of the strip, said strip already coated on its external face is fed over a heated metal support roller which has a non-deformable surface

so that the strip is heated by contact of its external face with said support roller before, during and after application of the polymer composition to the internal face of the strip.

15. (previously presented): A method according to claim 14, characterized in that said support roller is provided with a non-stick layer.

16. (currently amended): A device for coating a metal strip having an "external" face ~~Be~~ to be coated and an opposite "internal" face, said device including:

- means for applying a layer of polymer composition to the external face of the metal strip, including a support roller provided with heating means, and
  - means for feeding the metal strip continuously and defining a feed path of the strip in said device, wherein:
    - said support roller has a non-deformable metal surface,
    - said feed means feed the strip over said support roller with the internal face held in contact with the surface of said roller before, during and after application of said layer, and
    - said heating means heat the non-deformable metal surface of said support roller,
- whereby said metal strip is heated before, during and after application ~~only~~ through contact of the internal face with said heated support roller,

said metal strip being heated before application of said polymer composition to said external face only through contact of the internal face with said heated support roller.

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17. and 18. (canceled).

19. (previously presented): A device according to claim 16, wherein said application means include an applicator roller with a deformable surface bearing indirectly on said support roller through the intermediary of said strip so as to form rolling means in conjunction with said roller.

20. (previously presented): A device according to claim 19, wherein said applicator roller is provided with cooling means.

21. (previously presented): A device according to claim 20, wherein said cooling means cool the surface of said applicator roller directly.

22. (previously presented): A device according to claim 21, wherein said cooling means include a metal belt fed in contact with said applicator roller to cool it and means for cooling said metal belt.

23. (previously presented): A device according to claim 16, wherein said application means include means for extruding said composition in the molten state.

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24. (previously presented): A device according to claim 16, wherein it includes means for cooling the strip on the feed path of the strip and downstream of said support roller.

25. (previously presented): A device according to claim 24, wherein the cooling means include a cooling roller with a metal surface.

26. (previously presented): A device according to claim 24, wherein the cooling means include water spraying and/or water quenching means.

27. (previously presented): A device according to claim 16 for coating the external face of a metal strip, wherein it further includes means for coating the internal face.

28. (previously presented): A device according to claim 27, wherein the means for coating the internal face are on the feed path of the strip and downstream of said support roller and include:

- means for applying a layer of polymer composition to the internal face of the strip, including a metal support roller with a non-deformable surface and provided with heating means, and

- means for feeding the strip over said support roller with its already coated external face held in contact with the surface of said roller before, during and after application of said layer.

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29. (previously presented): A device according to claim 28, wherein said support roller is provided with a non-stick layer.

30. (previously presented): A device according to claim 28, wherein it includes a pair of cooling rollers downstream of said support roller and the successive rollers are disposed so that the coated faces and of the strip come alternately into direct contact with the rollers.